

9/28/76

If these people are finally listening to me - and I have only an interpretation of what Bud said to indicate this - then I want them to know that when they have a counsel and assuming his is a good one their problems have only just begun. If I have questions they are explained simply. Right all the time.

There is no choice but to accept it absent reason not to. But from the past I cannot accept it without any questions at all.

To use their phrase, the pot has boiled over. We face the question I've always asked: who gets burned?

In what time he has Les is his usual responsible self. He has been in touch with Fauntroy and Stokes. I did delay my letter to Fauntroy until after hearing what Bud had to say. Typically he had exaggerated and shown no basic understanding. He now has to face what he has never faced: what he has done. This is what worries me. He said "they" are playing "hardball." "They don't have to. This is more serious. He also said the investigation is off when he called me. He mentioned that only briefly, in the sense that Downing might do nothing this year. I don't know which is worse. I have a hunch that dropping it now also would not be good. If permanent. While for several years I've favored a confrontation at the time of the trial."

Here my focus over all these years on the essential evidence of the crime itself can make the difference. Time will tell. I'm prepared to go farther than I've told Bud or Rick but I'm not except under my own terms. Until I have some meaningful indications of responsibility I'll not even suggest how. One can lead jackals all over the place without the jackals striking. I'm willing to take about as much as I can get.